From: Stephen Best
To: Flock Safety Support
Cc: brendon.norton@flocksafety.com; Tee Jane Teh; libby.landers@flocksafety.com; Eligio Lara; Daniel Cohen; jake.sherman@flocksafety.com; Michael Balcorta
Subject: RE: Flock Identification issues
Date: Tuesday, June 11, 2024 6:48:02 AM

Thank you.

Corporal Stephen L. Best
Santa Maria Police Department
1111 W. Betteravia Rd., Santa Maria, CA 93455
(805)928-3781 X2491
sbest@ci.santa-maria.ca.us
sbest@cityofsantamaria.org

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From: Flock Safety Support <support@flocksafety.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2024 6:42 AM
To: Stephen Best <sbest@cityofsantamaria.org>
Cc: brendon.norton@flocksafety.com; Tee Jane Teh <tteh@cityofsantamaria.org>; libby.landers@flocksafety.com; Eligio Lara <elara@cityofsantamaria.org>; Daniel Cohen <dcohen@cityofsantamaria.org>; jake.sherman@flocksafety.com; Michael Balcorta <mbalcorta@cityofsantamaria.org>; Stephen Best <sbest@cityofsantamaria.org>
Subject: RE: Flock Identification issues

*** EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please use caution when opening links or attachments.***

Hi Cpl. Best,
Thank you again for the feedback and for your patience as the Machine Learning team dug in further. They were very appreciative as well. Below are their responses to your concerns:

Regarding daytime color, it is understandable looking at these photos how in different lighting conditions, this car could look silver, grey, or white. We should be able to do better on "brown", and we will make a ticket to work on that as we continue to make improvements to color classification.

Regarding daytime type classification, this Prius body style highlights something that is challenging when building a machine vision model because different car manufacturers classify similar looking vehicles as "sedans", "hatchbacks", "sports activity vehicles", "coupe SUVs", etc. Because so many similar vehicles use different labels for a similar shape, it can confuse the model. We are actively working to overcome this.

Regarding flagging vehicles, we do review those every month and incorporate them into improving our model, so it is helpful. But we understand that it is a lot of work, and understand you can't flag every single error. We constantly monitor our production data to identify vehicle makes, colors, and attributes that have higher than expected errors and improve them.

Regarding "if you have daytime images of the night time vehicle, shouldn't you weight or give priority to the categorization from the daytime image vs the night time image?", we currently show the daytime images between 8p-7a. We have plans to continue improving this further similar to your suggestion.

I hope this is helpful.

Thank you and stay safe,
Adam

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Flock Safety Support [support@flocksafety.com]
Sent: 6/6/2024, 9:59 AM
To: sbest@cityofsantamaria.org
Cc: brendon.norton@flocksafety.com; tteh@cityofsantamaria.org; libby.landers@flocksafety.com; elara@cityofsantamaria.org; sbest@cityofsantamaria.org; dcohen@cityofsantamaria.org; jake.sherman@flocksafety.com; mbalcorta@cityofsantamaria.org
Subject: RE: Flock Identification issues

Thanks Cpl. Best for the feedback and for making this easy on me to bring to our Machine Learning team. I'm going to connect with them and get back to you ASAP with some answers.

Stay tuned,
Adam

---------- Original Message ----------
From: Stephen Best [sbest@cityofsantamaria.org]
Sent: 6/6/2024, 9:31 AM
To: libby.landers@flocksafety.com; support@flocksafety.com; jake.sherman@flocksafety.com; brendon.norton@flocksafety.com
Cc: elara@cityofsantamaria.org; sbest@cityofsantamaria.org; dcohen@cityofsantamaria.org; mbalcorta@cityofsantamaria.org; tteh@cityofsantamaria.org
Subject: Flock Identification issues

While reviewing the results of my tests to see if the trimming of the nearby trees resolved the poor night time images, I found that Flock consistently mis-identified make, model and color of my vehicle at night (which I guess is to be expected) but even if I pull up daytime photos of my vehicle there is a wide variety of identifications. This greatly degrades the effectiveness of the use of the filters and searches conducted by descriptions.
I don't know if your identification is all automated or if you rely upon users flagging errors, but it seams unreasonable to have the user flag every image that is mis-identified. It would take hours. Also, if you have daytime images of the night time vehicle, shouldn't you weight or give priority to the categorization from the daytime image vs the night time image?

Just some thoughts.

Attached are two PDFs demonstrating the problem. Below, you can see my vehicle is a gray (or silver) Toyota Prius which I would categorize as a Hatchback.
At night it was categorized as a Sedan or SUV, Toyota, Hyundai or Kia, Silver/Gray, Brown or Black.
When I pulled up daytime images it was categorized as Sedan, SUV or Hatchback, mostly Toyota and one Chevrolet, Silve/Gray, Brown, White or Black.

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